GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1713
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2001
PLAN TO CONVERT STD/ISD BOOTHS INTO INFORMATION KIOSKS
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have drawn up an ambitious plan to convert existing STD/ISD booths into information kiosks across the country;

(b) if so, the salient features of the plan;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be implemented; and

(d) the States where the system is to be implemented?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited(BSNL) has planned to encourage private entrepreneurs, which includes Local/STD/ISD PC(franchisees for setting up Internet Dhabas including upgradation of Local/STD/ISD PCOs in all the Block Headquarters. Howeve MTNL has no such plan at present.

(b) The salient features of the plan are given below:

i) Free Internet access in the Rural Block Headquarters will be provided by BSNL whereas 1500 hours of Free Internet access will be permitted in urban Block Headquarters.

ii) The Internet Dhaba franchisees both in Rural and Urban Block Headquarters will be paid commission @ 25% of the PSTN charges.

iii) For Internet access, a telephone line on out of turn basis without STD/ISD facility and training to the franchisees from BSNL`s training centers will also be provided by BSNL.

(c) Provision of the facility depends on the willingness of the franchisee to invest in the required infrastructure.

(d) The plan is being implemented in all the states.